



**Testimony  
Betsy Gara  
Executive Director  
Connecticut Council of Small Towns  
Before the  
Environment Committee  
March 7, 2014**

**Re: SB-27, AN ACT CONCERNING CONNECTICUT'S RECYCLING AND  
MATERIALS MANAGEMENT STRATEGY  
SB-307, AN ACT CONCERNING THE TRANSFER OF CERTAIN FUNDS OF  
THE CONNECTICUT RESOURCES RECOVERY AUTHORITY**

The Connecticut Council of Small Towns (COST) submits the following comments relative to **SB-27, An Act Concerning Connecticut's Recycling and Materials Management Strategy** for your consideration:

The present abundant supply of low cost natural gas has significantly reduced electric power generation costs in New England. An unforeseen consequence has been a radical decline in the market value of power being generated by the Hartford facility.

Fifty-one CRRA member towns, which have recently renewed Municipal Service Agreements with CRRA, will be subjected to dramatically increased tipping fees to keep the plant operating if this is not addressed. While CRRA's Hartford plant was the first to experience this market generated constriction in the value of its product, other plants will face the same issues when their contracts expire.

Accordingly, municipalities are concerned about the impact of SB-27 on their contracts and tipping fees. Additional language is needed to specify that Municipal services agreements will be maintained with current opt-out provisions and pricing protections for towns. Moreover, compliance by the Non-MIRA municipalities (>100) and private waste entities with the mandates contained in Section 3 and detailed in the SWMP update should be considered.

COST does support efforts to relieve CRRA of responsibilities for statewide education and additional facets of the SWMP, which will free up staff to focus on other priority issues.

We also support efforts that will help determine the next generation technology which must be competitive in the market and economically viable.

COST also has concerns regarding **SB-307**, which does not appear to be consistent with current law. At this point, CRRA and DEEP are working to finalize the Memorandum of Understanding relative to the transfer of the landfill closure responsibilities and expedite the transfer of reserves to the Office of Policy and Management.

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